



05-17-06

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2623  
#PATENTS  
UV-226

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant : Michael D. Ellis  
Application No. : 09/996,346  
Confirmation No. : 1971  
Filed : November 28, 2001  
For : ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE WITH BLACKOUT  
FEATURES  
Group Art Unit : 2623  
Examiner : Jason P. Salce

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION

Express Mail Label No. EV674901388US

Date of Deposit: May 16, 2006

I hereby certify that this certification and the following papers:

1. Transmittal Letter (3 pp. in duplicate)
2. Reply to Office Action (2 pp.); and
3. Return postcard.

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Name: Isatta B. Smith



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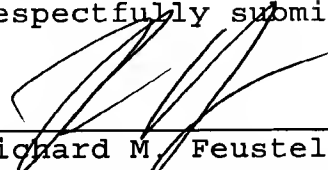
REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies provided in the telephone conference with the undersigned on May 15, 2006. As discussed in the telephone conference, applicant filed a preliminary amendment on February 12, 2002 canceling claims and reducing the total number of claims from 432 to 132. The preliminary amendment was received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 20, 2002.

Applicant respectfully requests that the March 23,  
2006 restriction requirement be rescinded.

Respectfully submitted,



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